



Department of Public Health

September 18, 2014

Dear Parent,

The City of El Paso Department of Public Health has determined that at the time of your child's birth at Providence Memorial Hospital (September 1, 2013 – August 16, 2014) he or she may have had close contact with a healthcare worker who has since been diagnosed with Active Tuberculosis (TB).

TB is a serious but treatable disease that is spread through the air. Although TB is not easy to catch from another person, we want to be extra sure that your child is examined.

To check your child for the infection, we need to do a TB skin test, which is a common way to help tell if there are TB germs in the body. Your child should receive this TB skin test as soon as possible in order to determine if he or she has the TB germ. A nurse will look at the arm in 2-3 days to read the test. Your child will also need a chest x-ray so that a doctor can check to see if your child's lungs are clear. A doctor will examine your child and answer any questions you may have. If it is needed, medication will be provided to further protect your child.

All these services will be provided for free by the Health Department or Providence Memorial Hospital. Please make an appointment by dialing **2-1-1 or 1-877-541-7905**. Please call Monday – Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (*These numbers will also be active this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, September 20 and 21, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*) Your child will only be seen if you make an appointment. If you instead wish to visit your child's regular doctor for testing, please give this letter to the doctor. In that case, you would be responsible for paying for the cost of testing.

Please note that a person who is exposed to TB is not able to spread the bacteria to other people right away. Only a person with active TB can spread TB germs to others. More information about TB is available at www.EPHealth.com.

Sincerely,

Hector Ocaranza, MD
Health Authority
El Paso Department of Public Health

Enrique Martinez, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Sierra Providence Health Network

Mayor
Oscar Leeser

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